



# Alliance for Regulatory Coordination

## Testimony for Information on Senate Bill 698

**Before the Senate Committee on Government Operations and Consumer Protection**

February 4, 2016

Good Morning!

I am Bob DuPont, founder of the Alliance for Regulatory Coordination.

The ARC is a consortium of 15 business, professional and trade organizations involved in building design, construction and regulatory services. The Alliance seeks regulatory services provided in the most efficient manner possible to effectively promote the health, safety and welfare of Wisconsin citizens and visitors.

The Alliance for Regulatory Coordination asks this committee to defer action on Senate Bill 698 until adequate time has been provided for customers of the Department of Safety and Professional Services to become familiar with the objectives, details and consequences of the bill. We support participatory democracy. We believe that allowing time for better understanding among affected customers could improve the bill, and result in easier implementation, and voluntary compliance.

The ARC is a strong supporter of DSPS programs as reflected in our November 2010 recommendation to then Governor –Elect Walker to create the Department of Safety and Professional Services by combining the Department of Regulation and Licensing with the safety programs of the Department of Commerce. We understand that portions of SB 698 can be viewed as logical steps to a more cohesive, efficient and effective agency. All we ask for is time to understand and provide input.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this bill. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Please see reverse side showing Alliance members.

Alliance for Regulatory Coordination

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# Alliance for Regulatory Coordination

## **Classic Members**

Associated Builders and Contractors of Wisconsin  
International Association of Electrical Inspectors, Wisconsin Chapter  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Wisconsin State Conference  
National Electrical Contractors Association, Wisconsin Chapter  
Plumbers Union Local 75  
Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors, Wisconsin Association  
Water Quality Association of Wisconsin  
Wisconsin Code Officials Alliance  
Wisconsin Electrical Trades Council  
Wisconsin Fire Protection Coalition  
Wisconsin State Fire Chief's Association  
Wisconsin State Fire Inspectors Association

## **Associate Members**

Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin  
Wisconsin Propane Gas Association

## **Supporting Members**

International Code Council



**Scott Walker, Governor**  
**Dave Ross, Secretary**

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**TO:** Senate Committee on Government Operations and Consumer Protection

**FROM:** Department of Safety and Professional Services

**DATE:** Thursday February 4, 2016

**RE:** Testimony on SB 698

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Good morning Chairmen Stroebel and members of the committee. My name is Jeff Weigand, the Assistant Deputy Secretary of the Department of Safety and Professional Services. With me is Robert Schlaeger, the Legislative Liaison for the Department of Safety and Professional Services and we appreciate the opportunity to testify in favor of Senate Bill 698.

SB 698 will make several changes that will bring clarity to DSPPS statutes, and will eliminate outdated statutes with redundant or irrelevant language. Many of the provisions found in this bill have been identified by Department staff as commonsense changes that can enhance the Department's performance and the ease of use for both Department staff and our customers.

The bill seeks to do the following:

1. Changes registration for Physician Assistants from March 1 of each odd number year to even even number year.
2. Eliminates the term technologists in regards to a Chiropractic Technologists Technician.
3. Speeds up the Medical Examining Board rule writing process.
4. Eliminates a notarized provision for the cemetery preneed seller requirements.
5. Repeals the requirements to complete education requirements prior to taking an examination.
6. Eliminates requirements that one of the appraiser members on the Real Estate Appraiser Board be a Licensed Appraiser.
7. Changes the public member requirement for the Massage Therapy and Bodywork Therapy Affiliated Credentialing Board.
8. Clarifies that the department can issue administrative warnings to license holders.
9. Repeals meeting requirements for various board and councils.
10. Makes changes to the funeral director licensure requirements in order to allow for expedient reciprocity with other states.
11. Clarifies that the social work training certificates are good for 24 months or until the certificate holder passes the exam for full licensure.
12. Repeals the Examining Board of Professional Geologists, Hydrologists and Soil Sciences from conducting and arranging examination semiannually.

Other changes in the bill...

13. Clarifies conflicts between the commercial building code and the multifamily building code.
  14. Brings Wisconsin in line with federal HUD guidelines for manufactured housing by:
    - a. Adjusting the civil and criminal penalties to be in line with federal amounts
    - b. Requires DSPS to provide reports to HUD on the operation of the program
  15. Eliminates the requirement that the department establish an alternative dispute resolution procedure for manufactured housing defects.
  16. Deletes duplicate requirements that give the department the authority to write a uniform plumbing code.
  17. Eliminates the Temporary Plumbing licenses which are no longer issued.
  18. Deletes language referring to "septic tank installers" which is no longer a license that is used by the department.
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19. Deletes language directing the department to inspect all public schools by 1990.
  20. Changes the UDC audit cycle from a 3 year cycle to a 5 year cycle.
  21. Clarifies the definition of a public swimming pool.
  22. Merges Chapters 101 and 145.
  23. Clean up of 2013 WI Act 270 which made the commercial building code uniform. This new language will clarify that the new uniformity also applies to the administration of the building code as well. Things like number of plan sets that need to be submitted for review will now be standardized.
  24. Eliminates old safety glazing requirements which have been replaced by modern and up to date requirements in the commercial building code.
  25. Eliminates a requirement that the department maintain a list of variances to the historic building code.
  26. Clarifies that the department has authority over a building inspector's license.

The above highlights of the cleanup bill are examples of some simple, noncontroversial changes that can be made to make government operations at DSPS more efficient, while clarifying or eliminating redundant, confusing and obsolete statutory language. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in favor of Senate Bill 698 and we will be happy to take any questions from the committee at this time.